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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,685	03/26/2004	Thomas Kolze	1875.4070001	7878

26111 7590 12/01/2009
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.
1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER	
ANDREWS, LEON T	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2462	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
12/01/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/809,685	KOLZE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LEON ANDREWS	2462	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 July 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 9-11 and 20-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 9-11 and 20-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/27/2009</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. **Claims 1, 9-11 and 20-36** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) by Grimwood et al. (Pub. No.: US 2001/0033611 A1)

Regarding Claim 1, Grimwood et al. discloses a method (method, Title, line 1) and apparatus (Fig. 6 CU, CMTS) for maintaining synchronization in a communication system wherein a central entity transmits a signal containing timing information to one or more remote devices, the one or more remote devices using the timing information for scheduling transmissions (Fig. 6, 256, Sync message includes sample of timestamp and CMTS sends sync message; transmitting timestamp data downstream from the CU allow the RUs to align their upstream frame to the CU upstream frame, paragraph [0082], page 7, lines 2-5), the method comprising:

synchronizing a first symbol clock (downstream symbol clock is synchronized with the CU master clock, paragraph [0012], page 2, line 9) of a first downstream transmitter (downstream data transmitted (first transmitter) by the CU, paragraph [0012], page 2, lines 10) in the central entity and a second symbol clock (symbol clock on line 399, [0183], page 18, line 2; symbol clock on line 455 in accordance with downstream messages, [0183], page 18, lines 10-12) of a second downstream transmitter (transmitter coupled to the symbol clock on line 399, [0183], page 18, lines 1-2) in the central entity (all clocks being synchronized in the CU, paragraph [0020], page 3, lines 3-5);

transmitting a first downstream signal (downstream data transmitted by the CU, paragraph [0012], page 2, lines 10) using a first downstream transmitter (downstream data

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transmitted (first transmitter) by the CU, paragraph [0012], page 2, lines 10) in the central entity (downstream clock signal of the downstream symbol clock of the first of transmission, paragraph [0012], page 2, lines 31-39; Fig. 6, 256) to the one or more remote devices, wherein the first downstream signal includes timing information based on the first symbol clock (downstream first sync message activated signal with timestamp CMTS_SYNC_TS in the CU, paragraph [0104], page 10, lines 1-5);

terminating transmission of the first downstream signal (Fig. 22, start/end of superframe);
and

transmitting a second downstream signal (symbol clock signal on line 399, [0183], page 18, line 2; symbol clock on line 455 in accordance with downstream messages, [0183], page 18, lines 10-12) using the second downstream transmitter (transmitter couple to symbol clock on line 399 in an 802.14 type CU, [0183], page 18, lines 1-2, lines 8-9) in the central entity to the one or more remote devices (all clocks being synchronized in the CU in both the RU and CU, paragraph [0020], page 3, lines 3-5), wherein the second signal includes timing information based on the second symbol clock (symbol clock signal on line 399 generated by time base 401, [0183], page 18, lines 2-3).

Regarding Claims 9, Grimwood et al. discloses an apparatus (Fig. 6 CU, CMTS) in a communication system (communicating system, Abstract, line 1), the apparatus comprising:

a first downstream transmitter (downstream transmission (transmitter) from the CU to the RUs, paragraph [0004], page 1, lines 1-2) (Fig. 13, transmitter is intended to operate in the CU upstream or downstream, paragraph [0220], page 22, lines 7-9) adapted to transmit a first

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downstream signal (Fig. 6, CMTS sends sync message including time stamp, CMTS_SYNC_TS from CU to RU) to one or more remote devices, wherein the first downstream signal includes first timing information based on a first symbol clock (transmission of barker codes from the CU to RUs include chip clock, paragraph [0004], page 1, lines 1-6) and first data having a first forward error correction (FEC) alignment (timestamp message encapsulated into forward error correction frames in MCNS downstream, paragraph [0134], page 13, lines 1-4);

a second downstream transmitter (transmitter coupled to the symbol clock on line 399, [0183], page 18, lines 1-2) configured to transmit a second downstream signal (symbol clock signal on line 399, [0183], page 18, line 2; symbol clock on line 455 in accordance with downstream messages, [0183], page 18, lines 10-12) to the one or more remote devices, wherein the second downstream signal includes second timing information based on a second symbol clock (symbol clock on line 399, [0183], page 18, line 2; symbol clock on line 455 in accordance with downstream messages, [0183], page 18, lines 10-12) of the second downstream transmitter; and a synchronization element configured to synchronize the first symbol clock and the second symbol clock (synchronizes the downstream and the upstream clocks, paragraph [0080], page 7, lines 1-2).

Regarding Claim 10, Grimwood et al. discloses the apparatus (Fig. 6 CU, CMTS) of claim 9, wherein the first downstream transmitter is configured to transmit a notification message (Fig. 6, 262, CMTS sends message to RU; messages normally sent between the CU and the RU frames, paragraph [0014], page 2, lines 5-8) to the one or more remote devices indicating that the first downstream signal will be terminated (Fig. 7, (300, with the upstream and downstream clock

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sync (a first signal is not transmitted (termination); 302, process looks and waits (non transmission termination) for message (first signal) to arrive) prior to a termination of transmission (Fig. 22, start/end of superframe) of the first downstream signal (downstream data transmitted by the CU, paragraph [0012], page 2, lines 10).

Regarding Claim 11, Grimwood et al. discloses the apparatus (Fig. 6 CU, CMTS) of claim 9, wherein the apparatus is a cable modem termination system (CMTS) (Fig. 6, CU is CMTS, paragraph [0106], page 11, line 1).

Regarding Claim 20, Grimwood et al. discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting the second downstream signal (symbol clock signal on line 399, [0183], page 18, line 2; symbol clock on line 455 in accordance with downstream messages, [0183], page 18, lines 10-12) is performed after the terminating (Fig. 22, start/end of superframe).

Regarding Claims 21 and 29, Grimwood et al. discloses the apparatus and method, wherein the synchronization element is configured to synchronize the first symbol clock (downstream symbol clock, paragraph [0012], page 2, line 9) and the second symbol clock (symbol clock on line 399, [0183], page 18, line 2; symbol clock on line 455 in accordance with downstream messages, [0183], page 18, lines 10-12) by adjusting one or more of the first and second symbol clocks (all clocks in both the RU and CU being synchronized in the CU, paragraph [0020], page 3, lines 3-5) to align (RU's synchronized aligned in time at the CU, paragraph [0006], page 1, lines 1-3) the first symbol clock to the second symbol clock.

Regarding Claims 22 and 30, Grimwood et al. discloses the apparatus and method, wherein the synchronization element is configured to synchronize the first symbol clock and the second symbol clock by measuring a magnitude of a misalignment (alignment offset for the RU to the CU clock of the time offset between the CU frame and the RU frame by sampling a counter clock when a downstream sync message is received with the offset calculated, paragraph [0014], page 2, lines 3-11) of the first symbol clock and the second symbol clock.

Regarding Claims 23 and 31, Grimwood et al. discloses the apparatus and method, wherein the second timing information further includes calibration (offset calculated and the boundary adjusted per this calculation to establish precise frame alignment with downstream sync message, paragraph [0014], page 2, lines 10-14) information relating to the misalignment (misalignments of data from other RU's, paragraph [0016], page 2, lines 2-3) to the one or more remote devices.

Regarding Claims 24 and 32, Grimwood et al. discloses the apparatus and method, wherein the first downstream signal further includes data relating to a forward error correction (FEC) alignment (message encapsulated into forward error correction frames in MCNS downstream, paragraph [0134], page 13, lines 1-4) of the first downstream signal.

Regarding Claims 25 and 33, Grimwood et al. discloses the apparatus and method, wherein the second downstream signal further includes data relating to a FEC alignment (data frames are

broken down into packets and sent downstream in a continuous stream after FEC encoding, paragraph [0005], page 1, lines 3-6) of the second downstream signal.

Regarding Claims 26 and 34, Grimwood et al. discloses the apparatus and method, wherein synchronization element is further configured to synchronize the FEC alignment of the second downstream signal to the FEC alignment of the first downstream signal (time of insertion of sync messages are always inserted in the same place in the FEC frame, paragraph [0015], page 2, lines 4-6).

Regarding Claims 27, 35 and 36, Grimwood et al. discloses the apparatus and method, wherein synchronization element is further configured to generate calibration information based on the FEC alignment of the first downstream signal and the FEC alignment of the second downstream signal (Fig. 9, Table 1 and Fig 10, Table 2 sync start position and adjustment in FEC frames).

Regarding Claim 28, Grimwood et al. discloses the apparatus of claim 9, wherein the second downstream transmitter is further configured to transmit the second downstream signal (symbol clock signal on line 399, [0183], page 18, line 2; symbol clock on line 455 in accordance with downstream messages, [0183], page 18, lines 10-12) in response to a termination of transmission (Fig. 22, start/end of superframe) of the first downstream signal (Fig. 7, 302, process looks and waits (non transmission) for message (first signal) to arrive, and 305, waits for second message (after first message did not arrive (terminated))).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. **Claim 2** is being rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) by Grimwood et al. in view of by Lee et al. (Patent No.: US 6,539,050 B1).

Regarding Claims 2, Grimwood et al. discloses the method (method, Title, line 1) of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting a notification message (Fig. 6, 262, CMTS sends message to RU; messages normally sent between the CU and the RU frames, paragraph [0014], page 2, lines 5-8) to the one or more remote devices indicating that the first signal will be terminated (signals to stop adding (terminate) payload bytes to the downstream and add all the bytes of the sync message at the appropriate insertion point, paragraph [0157], page 15, lines 3-6) prior to termination of transmission of the first signal (Fig. 11, reset and initialize of the downcounter (resulted in the first signal being terminated)).

Grimwood et al. fails to disclose signal termination prior to the termination of transmission.

But, Lee et al. discloses signal terminated approximately when the transmission of the signal is terminated, column 5, lines 2-5.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Lee et al.'s as the signal being terminated prior to the transmission termination since this would have provided coherent detection without causing undesirable intracell interference (column 5, lines 5-7).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed July 27, 2009 have been considered as follows:

- In the remarks on pages 8 and 10-11 of the amendment, applicant contends that Grimwood et al. does not disclose transmitting a second downstream signal using a second downstream transmitter in the central entity to the one or more remote devices.
- The examiner respectfully contends Grimwood et al. discloses transmitting a second downstream signal (symbol clock signal on line 399, [0183], page 18, line 2; symbol clock on line 455 in accordance with downstream messages, [0183], page 18, lines 10-12) using the second downstream transmitter (transmitter couple to symbol clock on line 399 in an 802.14 type CU, [0183], page 18, lines 1-2, lines 8-9) in the central entity to the one or more remote devices (all clocks being synchronized in the CU in both the RU and CU, paragraph [0020], page 3, lines 3-5)
- In remarks on page 9 of the amendment, applicant contends that Grimwood et al. does not disclose a downstream clock that transmits data.
- The examiner respectfully contends Grimwood et al. discloses downstream symbol clock in the transmitted downstream data is synchronized with the CU

master clock, [0012], page 2, lines 10-12. Additionally, symbol clock in accordance with downstream messages, [0183], page 18, lines 10-12.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leon Andrews whose telephone number is (571) 270-1801. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rao S. Seema can be reached on (571) 272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LA/la
November 18, 2009

/Donald L Mills/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2462